

TEXAS FMNP PROGRAM

**SUBJECT: FARMERS' MARKET
MONITORING**

POLICY NO.: FM: 01.3

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1996

REPLACES POLICY DATED: N/A

REF: Public Law 102-314, Federal Regulations 7 CFR Part 248.10

POLICY

Farmers' markets and farmers participating in the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) may be monitored for compliance with state and federal policies, procedures, and regulations.

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines and procedures for the monitoring of farmers' markets and farmers participating in the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

PROCEDURE

- I. The State Agency (SA) shall conduct on-site monitoring visits to at least 10% of authorized farmers and 10% of authorized Farmers' Markets beginning with those farmers and markets identified as being the highest-risk.
- II. Mandatory high-risk indicators are a proportionately high volume of FMNP coupons redeemed by a farmer as compared to other farmers within the farmers' market and within the State, and recipient complaints.
- III. Monitoring shall normally consist of an open visit to a farmers' market, with an on-site evaluation of prices, quality and quantity of produce, and FMNP coupon redemption procedures. It may include undercover coupon purchases by a SA representative.
- IV. The farmers' market and respective farmers may be notified at the time of the visit, or by letter in the case of a compliance buy, of any discrepancy noted.
 - A. The market or farmer shall be sanctioned in accordance with Policy FM: 01.4, Farmers' Market Abuse, based on the violations that have been substantiated.
 - B. Once noncompliance is identified, disqualification can be imposed in any FMNP season following notification to the farmers' market and/or farmer.
- V. Following a disqualification period, a market or farmer shall be on probation for the remainder of the FMNP season, or the following FMNP season, and may be closely monitored for

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continued compliance by both open visits and undercover compliance purchases during this probationary period. Any subsequent violation could result in a three year disqualification from the program.